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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This IDS is submitted under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b) within either of the following time periods, whichever occurs

- (a) within three months of either the filing date of the national application or the date of entry into the national stage; or
- (b) before the mailing date of first office action on the merits (i.e., not including actions such as restriction requirements).

Applicant(s) submit herewith Form PTO-1449 (Information Disclosure Citation) together with copies of patents, publications or other information of which applicant(s) are aware, which applicant(s) believe may be material to the examination of this application and for which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.56. Applicant(s) respectfully submit that the citation of any reference on Form PTO-1449 does not constitute an admission that the reference qualifies as prior art.

It is requested that the information disclosed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be made of record in this application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required to this application under 37 C.F.R.§§1.16-1.17, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 07-2069. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

January 29, 2004

300 South Wacker Drive - Suite 2500

Chicago, Illinois 60606

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Telephone: (312) 360-0080 Facsimile: (312) 360-9315 **Customer Number 24978**

Patrick G./Burns

Registration No. 29,367

Respectfully submitted,

GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.

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Form PTO- 44

U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office

Attorney Docket No.: 1324.68599

Serial No.: 10/696,504

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

(Use several sheets if necessary)

Filing Date: October 29, 2003

Applicant: Kobayashi et al.

Group:

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial*	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If Appropriate	
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Examiner

Date Considered

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Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.



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